

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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NEA:EGABINGTON, JR.
S/S- MR. SEBASTIAN
-----272232Z 003848 /74-61
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 311276

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EFIN EG

SUBJECT: PL-480 TITLE I

REF: CAIRO 17674

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S PROMPT RESPONSE TO REFTEL WITH USEFUL DATA ON WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR IMPORTS; HOWEVER, THE FIGURES FOR EGYPT'S ALREADY COMMITTED COMMERCIAL AND AID IMPORTS OF WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL VIRTUALLY ADD UP TO THE 3.6 MILLION METRIC TON FIGURE WHICH OUR ANALYSIS HAD INDICATED WAS EGYPT'S TOTAL IMPORT REQUIREMENT FOR WHEAT FOR FY 1977. IF 3.6 MILLION TONS IS IN FACT THE REQUIREMENT THEN QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL 500,000 TONS OF TITLE I PL-480 WHEAT FROM UNITED STATES BECOMES MOOT. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT FAO SPECIAL REPORT ON IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF MSA'S PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER SHOWS EGYPT AS HAVING
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IMPORTED 4,030,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT IN 1976.

2. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON EGYPT'S WHEAT IMPORT NEEDS, I.E. DO THEY STILL REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT PL-480 WHEAT FROM U.S., AND IF YOU BELIEVE THAT EGYPT MUST IMPORT AN AMOUNT SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER THAN 3.6 MILLION

TONS ANY ANALYSIS THAT WOULD SUPPORT SUCH A CONCLUSION.
ROBINSON

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